

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 10-17 are presently pending in this application, Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 10-17 having been amended, and Claims 9 and 18 having been canceled by the present preliminary amendment.

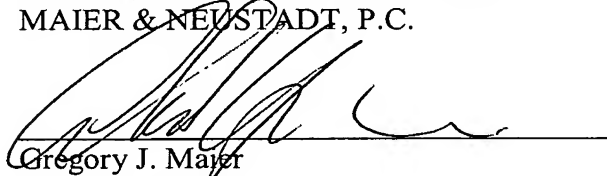
First Applicant thanks the courtesy of the personal interview granted to Applicant's attorney on November 14, 2003. During the interview, the outstanding issues were discussed and arguments in support of the claims' patentability were presented. In particular, it was submitted that Archibald fails to teach each of the three protrusions of the first object contacting both protrusions of the corresponding pair of protrusions of the second object. In response, the Examiner has indicated that the outstanding 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection based on Archibald would be overcome if Claims 1, 10 and 11 were amended to recite "a first protrusion of a first object contacting both protrusions of a first pair of protrusions of a second object, a second protrusion of the first object contacting both protrusions of a second pair of protrusions of the second object and a third protrusion of the first object contacting both protrusions of a third pair of protrusions of the second object." Accordingly, independent Claims 1, 10 and 11 were amended to reflect those features.

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Reply to Office Action of June 30, 2003

In light of the discussions held during the interview and in view of the present amendment and discussions presented above, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gregory J. Maier', is written over a horizontal line.

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